

there is nothing to indicate this to the uninitiated. Whoever prepared the systematic index on pages 29 to 39 completely misunderstood this arrangement just as we supposed a general reader would do. The heading "Genus *Acanthis*," which was intended to include only the Redpolls but which is followed by all the other Fringillidæ without a break has been carried on to the following page of the index by whoever prepared it as "Genus *Acanthis* concluded" under which we find the Swamp Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, etc.!

While the general text is apparently free from typographical errors the introduction gives evidence of very hasty preparation, first names and initials of writers are often omitted and the names of such well known ornithologists as Robert Ridgway and C. F. Batchelder are consistently misspelled.

All these matters are however trivial faults in an attractive and well gotten-up volume.—W. S.

'The Birds of North Carolina.'<sup>1</sup>—One of the most notable contributions to North American ornithology during the past year is the volume by the Messrs. Brimley and Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson on the birds of North Carolina. Adequate State bird books have heretofore been issued only by the more northern commonwealths but North Carolina now comes to the fore with one of the most satisfactory works of this kind that has yet appeared—a work that is a credit to the authors, the publishers and the State authorities and Audubon Society, who made its publication possible.

The text consists of a historical sketch by Mr. Pearson followed by a consideration of Life Zones and Distribution by C. S. Brimley. Then come keys for identification and a systematic consideration of the 342 species and subspecies of birds found in the State. The appendices comprise a bibliography, a set of migration tables covering thirty-one years' observations at Raleigh by the Messrs. Brimley and Mr. S. C. Bruner, similar to those published by one of the authors in 'The Auk' for 1917. There is also a Glossary and no less than three indices. For some reason many editors fail to realize that a single index is twice as useful as two and that there is no possible advantage in the separation of the references which only makes it more easy for one to search in the wrong place for what he is seeking.

The main text contains under each species, a description taken from Chapman's 'Handbook,' a brief statement of the general range and range in North Carolina, followed by an account of the bird in the State—its habits, abundance, records of captures of specimens of rare species, nests and eggs etc. The plan adopted seems admirable and the method of handling the data leaves little to be desired. One or two species seem to rest upon rather slender evidence as birds of North Carolina, as for instance, *Puffinus*

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of North Carolina. By T. Gilbert Pearson, C. S. Brimley and H. H. Brimley. Volume IV. North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey. Raleigh, 1919. Royal 8 vo. pp. i-xxiii, + 1-380, pl. 24, figs. 275.

*borealis*, identified by Atkinson from the length of a wing which he saw but the dimensions of which are not given; and *Clangula islandica* entered on the basis of a specimen reported by Cairns although another specimen obtained and identified by the same collector proved to be *C. e. americana*. There are also a few statements that have evidently been made on very questionable authority and had better have been omitted, as that regarding the breeding of the Bobolink in Louisiana and Florida.

Mr. Bruce Horsfall has contributed twenty-three of the color plates and some of them are among the best of his ornithological illustrations. Others are poor; the figure of the Yellow-throated Warbler being hopelessly out of proportion to its surroundings while the Fox and White-throated Sparrow are noticeably stiff. The other colored plate, that of the Swallow-tailed Kite, and 275 text figures mostly of the heads of the birds are by Brasher, although the fact is not mentioned anywhere in the volume. The text figures are very useful as a means of identification and are very well done with a few exceptions. In the Herring Gull the color is very misleading the back being no lighter than the lower parts.

The bibliography is introduced with a rather unfortunate statement to the effect that it includes "all known papers containing records of birds or their eggs from North Carolina." Most bibliographers would be chary of making such a claim and upon turning over a small collection of separate on the birds of the State which happens to be at hand we find one that has escaped the compiler. It is by C. J. Pennock, 'Bird Notes from Pinchurst, North Carolina' published in the 'Wilson Bulletin,' No. 74, and is an annotated list of 67 species containing some records that might well have been included in the State report. There is also an account of Swans on Currituck sound from 'Forest and Stream' for April, 18, 1916, which has been overlooked and there are doubtless other North Carolina notes in the same journal. A note on a curious hybrid duck (Mallard and Green-winged Teal) from North Carolina in 'The Auk' for 1903 would seem worthy of mention but it has apparently also been overlooked by the authors. For the general purposes of such a work however, the bibliography is satisfactory.

The names of the authors of this volume have so long been identified with North Carolina ornithology that it is a gratification to find the results of their labors preserved for future generations in such satisfactory form—a gratification that they no doubt share equally with the general public. Let us hope that this publication may prove the forerunner and model for State bird reports for some of the other southern commonwealths which have as yet issued no works of this kind.—W. S.

**Hine on Birds of the Katmai Region, Alaska.**<sup>1</sup>—In this paper, No. X of the scientific results of the Katmai Expedition of the National Geographic

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of the Katmai Region. By James S. Hine. The Ohio Journal of Science, June 1919. pp. 475-486.